3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1

constituencies. The elector does not vote for the man of his choice but for a list of candidates selected by the leaders of his party. There is therefore no personal contact between the member of parliament and his constituents, and even the politically minded citizen usually does not know the names of the members who represent him. Once in Parliament the member feels himself to be less a representative of the electorate than an official of his party, and the discipline of the party parliamentary club is strong. The club determines how he shall vote and sometimes how he shall speak. The opportunity for the individual to influence the democratic process outside the club is small, and the occasions are very rare when a parliamentary debate develops along lines unforeseen and unplanned by the party organizers.

The impersonal nature of the legislative procedure is increased by the rule requiring certain draft laws to be referred, before submission to Parliament, to Chambers representing sectional interests of the community, such as the Chamber of Agriculture and the Chamber of Workers and Employees, in which party interests are often strong. In the case of Bills wholeheartedly approved by the interests concerned, the subsequent parliamentary proceedings tend to lose in significance.

The large part played by the party machines in the whole process of government accentuates political antagonism. Individuals have a greater capacity for compromise than organizations, and under the Austrian system the scope given to the human element is reduced to a minimum.

This state of affairs contributed much to the intensity and bitterness of the political conflict between the Wars. The opposing parties, with their utterly different ideologies, were so taken up with the trial of strength between them that they mistook the means for the end. They forgot that the true purpose of the democratic process is to find something out and, having come as near as possible to discovering the best course, to act upon it. Such qualities as humour, good nature, friendliness, and a capacity to live and let live make Austrians natural democrats. Yet these very qualities were squeezed